

Evergreen Visioning Project
Task Force Meeting
DRAFT Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2005 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Montgomery Elementary School, 2010 Daniel Maloney Drive San José

Task Force Attendees: Tian Zhang, Khanh Nguyen, Daniel Gould, Ike White, Gordon Lund, Alan Covington, Vince Songcayawon, Lilian Jones, Lou Kvitek, Bill Koslovsky, Sherry Gillmore, José Aranda, Garth Cummings, Daniel Jacobs, Vikki Lang, Bo Radanovich, Mike Hill, Homing Yip, Maria Lopez

Attendees: See Sign-in Sheet

Staff Attendees: Eileen Goodwin, John Baty, Dave Cortese, Laurel Prevetti, Rabia Chaudhry

The agenda included:

- Approve Meeting Summary of May 5, 2005 Task Force Meeting
- Overview of upcoming City Council action regarding the Evergreen Visioning Project
- Preparation for the upcoming Council Study Session
- Discussion of parameters for new EVP Task Force
- Public Comment

Discussion/Key Issues/Questions:

The meeting summary of the May 5, 2005 Task Force meeting was accepted as submitted.

The facilitator Eileen Goodwin, Apex Strategies introduced herself to the group and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Councilmember Cortese briefly reviewed activities since the May 5, 2005 Task Force meeting. The Councilmember reported to the Task Force regarding the City Council meeting on Tuesday May 17th. Councilmember Cortese also

reported he had a productive meeting with Councilmember Nora Campos regarding the new Task Force organization.

Deputy Planning Director Laurel Prevetti announced that a City Council Study Session regarding EVP would be held on Wednesday June 8, 2005 at City Hall from 2 to 5 p.m. She explained that the Task Force members would have specific time on the agenda to communicate directly to the City Council. The EVP Task Force would have 20 minutes for a presentation and 15 more minutes to answer the City Council's questions. She further explained that City staff and the property owner representatives would be speaking on various topics during the Study Session as well so the EVP Task Force time was truly for the Task Force's issues and would not need to cover the financing elements, conversion of industrial land, etc. unless it was relevant to the Task Force's points. She suggested that the Task Force might want to focus comments on the proposed amenities important to the community and the Task Force's Guiding Principles.

Councilmember Cortese explained that his office was working on a separate document to the City Council for the Study Session. He further explained his vision was to have the document resemble a Strong Neighborhood Initiative Plan style document with chapters for each subject, binding, etc. He asked for Task Force members to help contribute to the document and he stressed that this document was needed to prove that the Task Force had in fact accomplished a lot over the past two years. Several Task Force members did volunteer to help with the document. Further Ms. Prevetti stressed that her staff was available to help provide documents and earlier presentations that may be useful as well.

The discussion then turned to the presentation element of the Study Session. Councilmember Cortese mentioned that while certain topics (i.e., conversion) may be more complicated for Task Force members to speak to all topics were relevant to the discussion. The Task Force members agreed that an earlier presentation created by Jim Zito and Alan Covington would be a good place for the group to start from. It was suggested that the community amenities needed to be emphasized and tied back to the development numbers and economics. It was also suggested that the point be made that the Evergreen area and District 8 has been underserved with amenities. A theme could be the tripod of "traffic-amenities-development numbers."

Task Force members stressed the need for the presentation to be positive and coming from what the Task Force wanted to stress not a reaction to the memo put out by the Mayor, Councilmembers Campos and Yeager on April 29th that outlined five topics for the Study Session.

It was agreed that the Task Force members needed another meeting to flesh out the presentation and that they would go out on the web to review the earlier Jim/Alan presentation. It was agreed that suggestions should be communicated to John Baty before the next Task Force meeting and that the Planning Staff would come with a draft presentation for review.

Discussion followed regarding the message of the presentation and Task Force members had the following comments/suggestions:

- Quality of life in District 8 should be a key theme;
- The community is the experts and has answers for some topics;
- The community does not yet have all the answers since their work is not yet complete;

Task Force members questioned the purpose of the Study Session and it was noted that it was a “hand-off” of sorts and that the Council would be viewing the discussion as their due diligence on the subject. It was also noted that the Mayor was likely to want the Council to consider key outcomes similar to the Coyote Valley Specific Plan process. Some of these may be quantitative (e.g., a goal for affordable housing production. These outcomes would likely be considered later in June.

Task Force members had these additional observations:

- “District 8” should always be the focus of the comments not just “Evergreen”
- Pleasant Hills area still has not been thoroughly discussed that is why the District 7 and District 5 people are still concerned about the process;
- The Task Force work plan needs to cover all of the sites (it was agreed that this was in fact the case);
- That the incomplete work should be noted some how (i.e. the College, Pleasant Hills, affordable housing, impacts of secondary units etc.)

Councilmember Cortese introduced the topics of the parameters of the new Task Force. He explained there would be up to 15 slots for existing Task Force members on the new Council appointed Task Force and that he was empowered to make those appointment suggestions. He further noted that three of the slots were his position as Chair, the EVP member from District 7 and the EVP member representing the Evergreen Elementary School District. He suggested that his appointments would be Khanh Nguyen for the EVP District 7 slot and Chris Corpus, school administrator (if willing) for the Evergreen school district slot. He further outlined that the remaining 12 slots would be selected by first creating screening criteria to help identify the most qualified Task Force members. The screening criteria may include attendance at EVP meetings and ability to commit to future meetings. He explained that the Mayor had called for no alternates on the new Task Force so attendance would be a key element.

Councilmember Cortese also explained he was hoping to keep the existing Task Force in place and in fact would be looking to expand its membership to Leyva

Community Action Team, Pala Rancho Association, Madison Pulte Neighborhood Association, La Raza, Eastside Union High School District, Mt. Pleasant School District, etc. and have no limit to the number of members. He explained his resistance to adding people in the past was because of the process and the Guiding Principles but that he felt now circumstances were such that opening up membership was a good and healthy idea.

The Councilmember further elaborated on his process for selection of the new Task Force members. He welcomed input on these screening criteria. He suggested that his screening criteria would likely come up with more members eligible than seats so he would have his office create a ballot that Task Force members could use to vote for the 12 representatives. He further explained there would be a system in place to break tie votes. He explained he would work with Planning Staff on the timing of the ballot. The Councilmember explained it was his vision that the existing Task Force would take positions and guide the members of the new Task Force.

Discussion followed:

- Task Force members expressed concern regarding the potential for burn-out if there were two Task Force meetings every month.
- Task Force members suggested combining the existing Task Force with the Roundtable to help cut down on meetings. Councilmember Cortese agreed to agendize this concept at a future Roundtable meeting.
- Task Force members asked if the new Task Force would have property owner representatives. It was explained that the four sites would each have a seat.
- Task Force members commented that the residential community near the industrial area needed more representation on the Task Force.
- Task Force members noted that school issues will be key. It was further stressed that the new Task Force should not abandon this Task Force's work. It was noted that the members needed to make that point at future new Task Force meetings.
- A Task Force member wondered if there was a really an honest process or if the Mayor and Council would just do what they wanted anyway.
- Task Force members wondered what night the new Task Force would meet. The answer to that was not known at this time.

Councilmember Cortese asked Task Force members to contact him directly if they did not want to be considered for the new Task Force.

Public Comment:

- A member of the public suggested the following three points for consideration: 1) the presentation from this Task Force at the Study Session needs to be forward looking and in control; 2) this Task Force needs to be the drivers and 3) it would be good to pick the members who would be speaking at the Study Session tonight.
- A member of the public expressed confusion and frustration regarding the numbers in the memo from Planning Director Stephen Haase regarding the rezoning applications. He was especially concerned regarding the proposed residential densities on the sites and their potential traffic impacts.
- A member of the public queried whether Mike Alvarado would be replaced on the existing Task Force, and the ability to attend Roundtable meetings.
- Another member of the public asked whether the new Task Force meetings would be public and suggested at least one neighbor from each proposed development site be appointed to the new Task Force.

Announcement:

- There was an announcement made about an upcoming VTA meeting regarding the Downtown/East Valley Light Rail hosted by the Pleasant Hills Neighborhood Association on June 6th at 7:00pm at August Boeger Junior High School.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Action items:

- Several Task Force members agreed to help Councilmember Cortese with the SNI style document. Planning staff agreed to help research and supply information for the document.
- The Task Force suggested that another meeting be set (a.s.a.p.) to finalize the presentation for the Study Session.
- Task Force members agreed to go on the web and review the presentation by Jim/Alan as a starting point for the Study Session and to communicate any additional ideas to John Baty before the next meeting. Planning Staff would bring a draft presentation for review at the next meeting.
- Councilmember Cortese would narrow down those eligible for the ballot and work with Planning staff on the timing of the ballot and what to do in case of a tie.

- Task Force members suggested combining the existing Task Force with the Roundtable to help cut down on meetings. Councilmember Cortese agreed to agendaize this concept at a future Roundtable meeting.
- Councilmember Cortese asked Task Force members to contact him directly if they do not want to be considered for the new Task Force.
- There is a website called www.sjpermits.org. where the public can check on the status of zonings and other development applications on file at the City.

Prepared By: Eileen Goodwin

Distribution: Attendees